

America is not just a power, it is a promise. It is not enough for our country to be extraordinary in might; it must be exemplary in meaning.

Nelson Rockefeller

Year VI
Volume LV

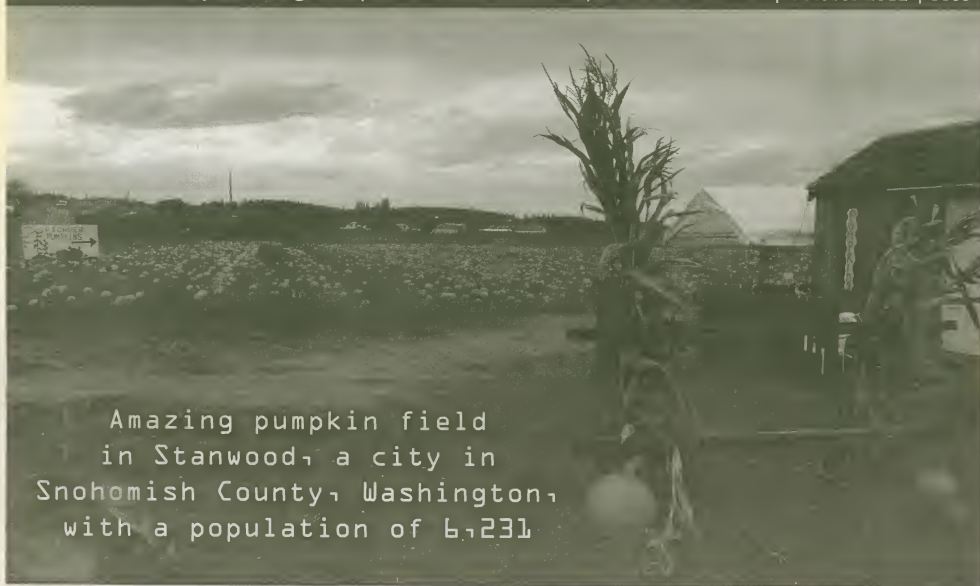
The Echo

eastern european

WNPA
Washington Newspaper Publishers Association
EST. 1907

Our news magazine is an associate member of W.N.P.A.
For more details, visit www.TheEcho.us

Independent Monthly News Magazine | Published in Seattle WA, Northwest America | October 2012 | Free



Amazing pumpkin field
in Stanwood, a city in
Snohomish County, Washington,
with a population of 6,231

HM King Michael of Romania, 91st Birthday

25 October 2012

"I have served the Romanian nation throughout a life that has been long and full of events, some of them happy, many of them unhappy(...)"



After freedom and democracy, the most important things to be gained are identity and dignity. Here a major responsibility rests upon the Romanian elite. ("HM King Michael of Romania, discourse in the Parliament with the occasion of the 90th birthday celebration)

In the '90s, King Michael (Mihai) could have been the savior of Romanian nation. Now, more than 20 years later, the country is the poorest among E.U. nations, having unlimited corruption, the old-new "red oligarchs" and bold political stupidity. Why?

Dan Leontescu,
Seattle

Back to Soviet Era

MOSCOW — As gray winter skies descend on Moscow, Russians are adjusting to a political winter. Since taking office nearly six months ago, President Vladimir Putin has methodically reduced civic space in Russia by advocating new laws on treason, blasphemy, libel, Internet censorship and curbs on public protest.

Then, Russians saw a new twist: a well-known opposition activist, Leonid Razvozhayev, shouting to reporters that he had been kidnapped off a sidewalk in Kyiv, Ukraine, and forcibly brought to Moscow for trial.

Oleg Kashin, a radio analyst

for the Russian daily *Kommersant*, says get used to it. President Putin, he says, is taking Russia down the road of neighboring Belarus, a nation run for 18 years by Alexander Lukashenko, often called "the last dictator of Europe."

What may hold the Russian president back is what analysts in Russia call "hand-shakeability": Putin is still welcome in Western capitals, whereas Lukashenko is not.

With the ruling party sweeping all governors' elections two weeks ago and a new "foreign agent" law going into effect next week, Putin seems to be taking a big political step back to the Soviet Union. For now,

these conservative new laws seem to be having a chilling effect.

Masha Lipman, an analyst for *Carnegie Moscow*, says she sees "...a desire to intimidate the tens of thousands of people who have taken part in protests and other forms of civic activism, and indeed push them back where they used to be." Lipman and others say the goal is to return Russia to the apolitical days during the boom years of the 2000s. During this decade, Russians largely traded their political freedoms for the freedom to travel, to buy, and to make more money.

| continued on page 4

Editorial Board

Editorial Manager & Layout:
Dan Leontescu

Community Advisor:
Gabriel T. Gherasim, M.A.

Marketing Manager:
Natalia Cirstea

Copy Editor:
Heidi Clegg

Contributors:

Natalia Cirstea, Oregon

Paul Petrescu, Germany

Oana Aposta, France

Mihail Gramescu, Romania

"The Eastern European Echo" is a monthly, non-profit tabloid newspaper published since 2006 and known before as "The Romanian Echo". As of end of 2011, it is published under "Pro America Society", Seattle WA, a community service organization dedicated to American majority and Eastern European minorities in Washington, Oregon, California and anywhere else in US or abroad.

"The Eastern European Echo" publishes local, national and world news of interest. The paper is distributed at an cost to any non-profit organization such churches, diplomatic or cultural centers etc., being also available in some street boxes, libraries, markets, food stores, hotels and restaurants.

We take a non-friendly approach to journalists by presenting a broad range of views and perspectives on current issues and also focused on stories from Europe that may affect our American way of life.

You can submit any tip, news, article, opinion on our email:
TheEcho@gmail.com

Also, you can contact us 24 hrs.
7 days week at

+1 (206) 331-8955
(or leave a message).

Note: we are not responsible
for articles and/or advertising
content.

For any payment, please write
your check to:

Pro America Society

Thank you.

Dan Leontescu,
publisher / editor
number of



VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM AND THEIR PERSECUTORS (I)

by Gabriel T. Gherasim, MA - New York

FOREWORD

The Red Holocaust: The Case of Romania

The Red Holocaust which took place in the 20th century in the Central/Eastern European former Communist countries left multi leveled and indelible scars on peoples' souls, not only for the generations which had to go directly through that experience, but also for those which followed and for those to come.

The case of Romania is no exception to this reality. What makes the matter worse is the fact that there was no radical passage from the old Communist system to the Democratic one, as those who took power after the December 1989 fall of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's regime were people who had been connected with the same Communist system. In fact, most of them were deeply involved in the oppressive system where they had held positions of responsibility in which they had implemented the Communist ideology and its draconic rules on their fellow citizens. So the regime changed in form and appearance but not in the mentality of those who were part of it. They were rightly called Neo-Communists and the writer of this book is well aware of this fact. Hence, the value of his idea to do something about this situation by addressing it objectively and scientifically-head-on. In order to achieve this purpose, namely to raise awareness of the imperative need to establish a restorative justice process, provide restitution and transform the relations between perpetrators and victims in his native country, Romania, and to eventually see concrete steps taken in this direction, Gabriel Teodor Gherasim did significant research and critical thinking on what might work best in a possible implementation of strategies designed to bring the matter to fruition.

He did extensive evaluations of literature in the field of Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding and studied specific applications of this literature and theories in previous conflicts. In doing that, the author not only lists the main ideas of this specialty's concepts, and explains what they are about, but he also personalizes them by explaining what attracted him most during his study and why, and very importantly, he also details how he would use elements of those theories of literature in a concrete fashion in any case in which he might be involved in the Post-Communist restorative justice process.

The overview of the Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding courses he took when studying for his Masters in this specialty at California State University (the Dominguez Hills Campus), indicates clearly that the author has understood the courses' content, the concepts and the theoretical frame of his specialization and his future practice as a mediator. That is also indicated by the special attention he gives to communication, negotiation and mediation skills, as the sine qua non vital tools for the process of such a difficult mission as implied in the topic of this book. This enterprise is interdisciplinary in character in that it touches the fields of psychology, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, economics and politics. By using relevant bibliographies, such as books of narrative testimonies by writers who lived under the Communist regime, in Romania, and by other authors specializing in conflict resolution, mediation, negotiation, counseling etc., Gabriel Teodor Gherasim presents his own views on what is to be done in Romania from the subject of the book's point of view, including how and with what chances of success. In his endeavor, the author also explores the Israeli-Palestinian conflicts, the work of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa, and other such conflicts, in order to see the different approaches that were used or can be used in conflict resolution cases. He analyzes them critically, looks for strengths and weak-

nesses, and then proposes his own sustainable alternatives that could work in the case of Romania. This is all the more important since many other analysts who know the situation in former Communist Romania, have investigated, critiqued, commented, and clarified their findings, but failed in the completeness of their investigation, in the objectivity of analysis and consequently in the proposal of vital, concrete steps for resolution in terms of restorative justice and compensatory restoration.

Such was the case for instance, of the Tismaneanu Report which not only absolved or ignored many of the Romanian perpetrators of atrocious crimes against human life and dignity, but also incriminated people and institutions which actively were repressed by, and suffered under the Communist regime and its criminals. As the author puts it: "for example, preparing a report condemning the institution of Communism in 2006, by Vladimir Tismaneanu, a Communist leader's son, which was read in the Romanian Parliament in the same year by Traian Basescu, a Securitate spy before 1989, turned afterwards democratic President of the country, meant symbolically that there were no more Communist handlers and their subjects, in Romania, but only Romanian citizens united in decrying the crimes of the tyrannical past" (p. 63). This was an episode of "lip service rhetoric" on the government's side, and maybe some sporadic media attention to the problem, as Gherasim remarks; yet, without serious concern for reparations to victims, and "with continued self-justification for crimes perpetrated on the innocents and lack of introspection, or wish to take responsibility for the past personal acts of generalized violence on the civilian population by the Communist culprits, not only will there not be any closure on past crimes, but there will be ongoing continuous injustices against the other stake-holders" (p. 53).

One major point that validates the author's preoccupation, research and thesis on this subject is the paradox related to the atrocities committed by the Nazi and Communist regimes. While the Nazi crimes, where 6,000,000 Jews, Gypsies, political dissidents and others were killed, have long been acknowledged and condemned in most European and other countries, the Communist crimes, where over 100,000,000 people were killed did not lead to any real justice for the victims and their descendants, despite numerous requests by the US Congress, the European Parliament and other local and international forums.

[to be continued next issue]

Not many people in our community really understand the value of their image.

DO YOU?

Hand me a cheap looking business card and that will tell me everything about the way you do business.

Let us improve your business image and make you look professional, no matter what kind of business you're running.

Trust a company that works for you, for community, whether you own an AFO or a Real Estate Company.

There is competition everywhere. Stand out from the crowd!



*Professional and greeting cards UV coated for a professional look

*2500 Web solutions

*Business identity packages at convenient prices

*Premium quality business cards on UV coated paper

Here are few Professional Quality Products:

*2000 business cards UV coated double sided full color... only \$28. That is only 1.4 CENTS per card.

*2000 postcards UV coated double sided full color... only \$195. That is only 19 CENTS per postcard.

*1000 greeting cards coated paper, heavy stock scored for easy folding... only a \$95.

That is only 30 CENTS per piece.

CALL OUR OFFICE AND HAVE ONE OF OUR REPRESENTATIVES GIVE YOU A FREE IN-HOUSE EVALUATION OF YOUR BUSINESS NEEDS!

Call (206) 331-8955


EU-Ukraine: Time for a Real Strategy

So far 2012 has been quite a tough year for EU-Ukraine relations. The entire relationship became politicized as a consequence of the imprisonment of former Prime Minister, Yulia Tymoshenko and her former Minister of Interior, Yuri Lutsenko, which is viewed as politically motivated, with Ukraine's leadership also being accused of eroding democracy in the country. In fact, there is hardly a single area these days where the EU and Ukraine cooperate which is not becoming affected by this politicization one way or another even if it is counter-productive to the EU's own interests or those of the region. An example of this is Ukraine being politically sidelined in the negotiations for a settlement of the Transnistria area which has been a problem that has always played an important and traditionally constructive role.

EU leaders decided to put on hold the Association Agreement and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA), which Ukraine and the EU spend almost five years negotiating and which was initiated earlier this year, until Ukraine improves democratic values. This approach has been labeled by its architects as "tough love". There seems to be a belief that by leaving Ukraine to stew, it will increase the chance of a successful outcome, although this approach is certainly not shared by all member states which fear the consequences of increasingly pushing Ukraine away. I would say that by putting the association agreement on hold the EU missed an opportunity to bind Ukraine to the EU. Thereby this strategy could lead EU into a dead-end, reducing its influence on Ukraine's decision-makers and pulling the carpet from under Ukraine's reformers. In fact the signature of the association agreement is in the strategic interest of the country and should be seen as a tool to help modernize and transform Ukraine. Ditto for the DCFTA which at first glance may look less attractive than Russia's Customs Union which would immediately give Ukraine economic benefits including cutting the price of gas by almost 50%. However in the longer term the DCFTA will be more beneficial for Ukraine including making the country more competitive on the world market. Interestingly, having to pay more for gas has actually forced Ukraine to begin to diversify its sources to diversify its energy resources as well as start to take steps to modernize its energy

sector, in order to save money. Signature of the AA and DCFTA has been supported by all Ukraine's political forces, including the jailed Mrs. Tymoshenko. However as time has passed broad support from the business community has started to drip away. This is in part a consequence of a proactive campaign by Russia, criticizing the DCFTA and flagging up the economic benefits of its Eurasian Union as a better deal. As far as I am aware there has been no communication campaign from the EU side flagging the benefits of the DCFTA. This is another indicator of the EU's somewhat "take it or leave it, it makes no difference to us" approach. Unfortunately the EU's approach is starting to affect Ukraine's society as a whole. Ukraine is now become a sort of hostage to the situation. One of the latest examples of this was the decision of the European Parliament to refuse to ratify changes to Ukraine's visa facilitation agreement with the EU, until after the 28 October Parliamentary elections. The conduct of these elections as well as the pre and post-election periods are viewed as a litmus test for democracy in the country with Ukraine's further EU integration heavily tied to the result. Ukraine's leadership has declared it wants to do everything to make sure these elections are free, fair and transparent, but in the united opposition, as well as a number of civil society organizations, cites numerous problems from vote buying to media restrictions. In order to have a clearer picture, Ukraine's Foreign Minister, Konstantyn Gryshchenko, invited more than five thousand international short and long term election monitors to assess the situation. He is also now travelling to EU capitals to try to convince his counterparts that the EU's wait and see approach is counterproductive. At a recent roundtable on EU - Ukraine relations in Vienna he stated the best way to deal with all of today's current challenges in the troubled relationship is by positive engagement. Meanwhile, First Deputy Prime Minister, Valeriy Khoroshkovsky, who is responsible for EU integration, has asked a number of independent NGO's including the Soros Foundation to hold an independent Media Monitoring mission to assess the media access of all candidates. This mission was launched last week

and is expected to produce regular reports on the ongoing electoral campaign. Current polls, from a number of different sources, show the Party of Regions is presently leading with some 26-28% of the vote with the United Opposition trailing slightly behind with around 23%. While polls in Ukraine are notoriously unreliable, the fact that the United Opposition seems to have focused their campaign primarily on complaining about Ukraine's current leadership rather than spending time on explaining their policies, particularly socio-economic ones - combined with the fact that Ukrainian's are rather fatigued with all political figures, could have contributed to the current outlook. Quite frankly nobody is expecting these elections to be perfect.

 which is a shame given that Ukraine has carried out a number of free and fair elections in the past, as well as being the only country in the EU's Eastern Partnership to carry out a peaceful transfer of power. Yet at the same time nobody expects a total disaster either. And the fact that these elections are proving to be so competitive is a positive point and at least demonstrates that the country is not an autocratic dictatorship as some like to claim. Yet the period after the election will need to be monitored particularly attentively as regards the formation of the new parliament, etc, because this is the time when a lot of horse-trading and funny business could take place.


Apart from holding free and fair elections, the EU also demanded that Ukraine put an end to political justice and get their EU reform process back on track. Ukraine's leadership claims, something that was underscored by Khoroshkovsky at a meeting with think-tank representatives during his visit to Brussels earlier this week, that the recent criminal procedural code reform, means the law under which the Tymoshenko and Lutsenko charges were proceeded, has been done away with, with a new criminal procedural code starting in November. In theory

this should mean no more such cases should be expected. He also stated that Ukraine would respect the ruling of the ECtHR on the Tymoshenko case. Let's hope this will be the case.

After a long period of inactivity Ukraine has relaunched its reform process, something that has been confirmed by the EEAS. Yet, it is something of a mixed picture. While there have been positive steps such as the new criminal procedural code, which used Council of Europe recommendation, other initiatives such as the recent Prosecutors law, which was rushed through without any consultation with Council of Europe, was a total flop. Ukraine needs to focus more on the quality of the reforms rather than the quantity. Moreover, many reforms fail at the first hurdle because of the corrupt state of Ukraine's judicial system which needs a total overhaul, something Khoroshkovsky said would be a priority after the elections. And while some steps had been taken to improve the business climate (customs, VAT reimbursement), Khoroshkovsky admitted that a number of difficult problems remain including law enforcement bodies pressure on business, corruption in judiciary, overregulation. Implementing the DCFTA would help to push reforms in these areas.

On visa, while there has been a slowdown in progress as lawmakers have focused their attention on the elections, some outstanding pieces of legislation necessary for implementation of the EU visa action plan have been adopted for biometric passports, personal data protection, fight against discrimination. The second hearing for laws on biometrics, personal data protection and legal status of foreigners is expected in October. If successfully passed the

first chapter of EU visa action plan will be closed. Yet Ukraine keeps shooting itself in the foot. The case against TVI for example and more recently the crisis over the defamation law. The law, which has the potential to seriously harm freedom of the media in Ukraine, was adopted last week in the first reading. It causes a massive outcry in the country and was subsequently recalled. Sometimes Ukraine is a difficult country to understand, particularly when it comes to it politics and there can be no doubt Ukraine's leadership has dug itself into something of a hole. To a large degree the ball is now in Ukraine's court, and it is in Ukraine's interests to cooperate over EU concerns. Yet at the same time the EU also needs to act in a proactive and responsive way. The EU has a responsibility to the people of Ukraine to support the country in its transformation, yet unfortunately until now the EU has been using long-term strategy in order to obtain short term results which has clearly not worked and, which could eventually lead to an imposition in the country. It is time for the EU to develop a real strategy for its engagement and relationship with Ukraine. On 14 November it seems EU Foreign Ministers will meet to assess developments in Ukraine, including the election result and the conclusions of the OSCE and other international monitors. It still remains unclear to what extent the ongoing imprisonment of Tymoshenko and Lutsenko will play into the EU's eventual decision; whether there will be an agreement to sign the AA or whether it will be left to gather dust. There is a lot at stake and the outcomes of this meeting may prove crucial in defining the next chapter in EU-Ukraine relations. (source: EU Observer)



BAROUL BUCURESTI
CABINETE ASOCIATE AVOCATI "CRANGARIU DRAGOI"
Calea Moșilor nr.98, ap.3, sector3, cod 030152

AVOCAT

Mobil: 0749 245 497
tel. 021 314 39 77/0314 25 20 83 fax: 021 313 27 48
e mail: crangariu20@yahoo.com

Consultanță: conform programării telefonice, prealabil

Reprezentăm în instanțele din România pe românii din afară granțiarilor și/sau repatriat! în cazuri de: recuperări / revendicări bunuri private, moșteniri, proprietăți/case naționalizate etc. Orice caz este binevenit!

elections

Obama Bests Romney In Final Debate

Analysts agreed that Obama won on points, but questioned if the result would have a big impact on voters and the race as a whole. US President Barack Obama has forcefully attacked his Republican challenger Mitt Romney, in their third and final presidential debate, the BBC informs.

During the tense encounter in Florida, the rivals tangled over the Arab Spring, Iran, Israel and China. Obama said his rival was "all over the map" on foreign policy. But Romney said the president had allowed "chaos" to engulf the Middle East. Two instant polls said Obama won the head to head. According to CNN, forceful President Obama put Mitt Romney on the defensive on foreign policy, with analysts and an immediate poll giving him the victory in their final debate just 15 days before the November 6 vote. Obama displayed the experience of a commander-in-chief in explaining U.S. policy under his leadership and attacking the views and proposals of Romney, a former Massachusetts

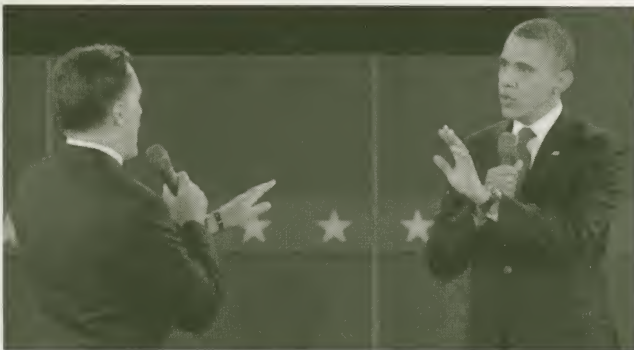


photo credit: ziarulive.ro

governor with less experience on international issues.

Romney ended up supporting most of the Obama administration's steps involving hotspots, such as the civil war in Syria, and preventing Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, giving the president the advantage in a debate in which his GOP rival needed to question foreign policy of the past four years. There were several scathing exchanges, with the president seeking to portray his challenger as a foreign policy novice who lacked the consistency to be commander-in-chief. Obama said the former Massachusetts governor had backed a continued troop presence in Iraq, opposed nuclear treaties with Russia and flip-flopped over when the US should

leave Afghanistan. "What we need to do with respect to the Middle East is strong, steady leadership, not wrong and reckless leadership that is all over the map," said Mr. Obama.

The rivals found plenty to agree on – declaring unequivocal support for Israel, insisting that China play by the rules in trade. Romney also backed the president's policy of withdrawing from Afghanistan by 2014 – something the Republican has previously disagreed with. Romney barely touched on last month's deadly assault on the US consulate. The Republican's line of attack on that subject in the last debate was widely perceived to have misfired. Analysts agreed that Obama won on points, but questioned if the result would have a big impact on voters and the race

as a whole.

A CNN/ORC International poll of people who watched the debate showed 48 percent favored Obama compared to 40 percent for Romney, a result considered statistically even under the margin of error of plus-or-minus 4.5 percent.

Another poll by CBS scored it a clear victory for Obama. At the same time, the CNN/ORC poll showed viewers thought Romney established credibility as a leader, which former White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer, a Republican strategist and CNN contributor, said was very important. Now the candidates hit the road for the final sprint to Election Day, focusing on the handful of battleground states considered still up for grabs and therefore vital to both their chances in a razor's edge race – Nine O'Clock,

Bucharest.

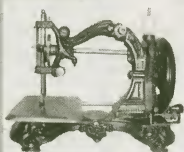
Another hot topic, immigration reform: new details of President Barack Obama's plans for a second term were given in an off-the-record interview with the Des Moines Register made public only after the paper protested that leaving it private would be a disservice to Iowa voters. The interview was conducted Tuesday but made public Wednesday after the Obama campaign gave permission to the paper releasing them from their off-the-record agreement. In the interview, Obama said he is confident his administration will pass immigration reform and achieve the equivalent of a grand bargain with Congress.

After failing to achieve comprehensive immigration reform in his first term, the president said Republicans, given the large Latino vote, will be invested in changing the system – according to CNN.

"I'm confident we'll get done next year is immigration reform," Obama said in the transcript of the interview posted online by the paper. "And since this is off the record, I will just be very blunt. Should we have a second term, a big reason I will win a second term is because the Republican Party have so alienated the fastest-growing demographic group in the country, the Latino community. So I am fairly confident that they're going to have a deep interest in getting that done," he added.

CNN has previously reported the White House met with a coalition of religious leaders in an effort to broach immigration reform next year.

Nisa Couture



schimbă fermă pentru picioare, fuste, rochi
surse pantaloni, fuste, rochi
scaie modifacat, intarzi, pentru conecti dare sau barbat
confecctiune la care largiti de pat si perden
free retreat on Wednesday
please call for appointment

Sunati pe Nisa la
(503) 901-3956 | in Portland OR
contact@niscouture.com | www.NisaCouture.com

Back to Soviet Era

| from page 1

But now the Kremlin fears that Europe's recession and China's slowdown will cut prices of oil, gas and other raw materials – the core of modern Russia's economy. If energy prices go down, the thinking goes, Putin will draw on the new repressive powers to ride out popular protests. His

six-year presidential term lasts until 2018, but, as in many oil exporting nations, he is popular only as long as he can deliver the goods. To rally Russians, the Kremlin is playing the anti-American card. Amid charges that Russia's opposition movement takes its orders from the West, the Kremlin ended a 20-year-old USAID program this month.

Lipman charges that state television paints a picture

of Russia's opposition as "either receiving financing from the West or being inspired by the West, or colluding with the West [or] associating themselves with the West, which, as the anti-American propaganda goes, is always seeking to do harm to Russia, to weaken Russia and to [do] all kinds of bad things to Russia." But while anti-American propaganda hits new, post-Soviet heights in Russia, Aeroflot flights between Moscow and New York are packed.

This, says Kashin, presents a dilemma for President Putin. Russia is not like Belarus, where the elite is her-

metically sealed from the outside world. "The big difference is that Putin is very closely tied into the West," said the radio analyst. "Political isolationism hits his inner circle." Kashin says the Russian elites send their children to universities in the West, where they also own bank accounts and real estate. But if Russians start getting 20-year jail sentences for talking to foreigners, and if too many foreign diplomats are kicked out, Putin may lose his "handshakeability" in the West. And yes again things are going not so good: Russian invest-

| more on page 8

Canada & U.S. To Enhance Border Security

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced on October 3, 2012, that both agencies will begin the Phase I pilot of the Entry/Exit initiative as outlined in the Beyond the Border Action Plan – according to Canadian consulate in Seattle.

The Phase I pilot project will allow Canada and the U.S. to test the IT capacity to exchange and reconcile biographic information on the entry of travelers that are not Canadian citizens or U.S. citizens, such that a record of entry into one country could be considered as a record of exit from the other.

Under the pilot project, the CBSA and DHS will exchange data currently collected on third-country nationals

(those who are neither citizens of Canada nor of the United States), permanent residents of Canada and lawful permanent residents of the United States at all four ports of entry; in Blaine WA and New York NY.

Beginning October 15, routine biographic information – collected between September 30, 2012, and January 31, 2013 – will be exchanged by both countries. This exchange means that record of entry into one country becomes a record of exit from the other country. This pilot program will not share information regarding Canadian or U.S. citizens. It will not affect regular operations.

"As outlined in the Beyond the Border Action Plan, our governments are committed to maintaining the integrity of our shared border," said Vic Toews, Minister of Public Safety. This sharing of entry

and exit information will play a key part in bolstering border security. "The sharing of entry and exit information will facilitate the legitimate flow of traffic between the U.S. and Canada while strengthening border security," said U.S. Customs and Border Protection Deputy Commissioner, David V. Aguilar.

A coordinated entry/exit system will help the U.S. and Canada identify persons who potentially overstay their lawful period of admission; track the departure of persons subject to removal orders; and verify that residency requirements are being met by applicants for continued eligibility in immigration programs. The process of collecting and sharing personal information will be done in accordance with each country's privacy laws and policies. It will also be consistent with the Action Plan Joint Statement of Privacy Principles, the Statement of Mutual Understanding on Information Sharing and a Letter of Intent agreed to by the CBSA and DHS.

Currently collected data elements being shared are: first name, last name, middle name, date of birth, nationality, gender, document type, document number, work location code / U.S. port of entry codes, date of entry, time of entry, and document country of issuance. In addition to what Canada and the U.S. currently collect on travelers at ports of entry, the date and time of entry as well as the port through which the traveler entered will also be collected and exchanged.

On February 4, 2011, Prime Minister Harper and President Obama released the Beyond the Border Action Plan, articulating a shared vision in which our countries work together to address threats at the earliest point possible while facilitating the legitimate movement of people, goods and services across our shared border. The Action Plan, released on December 2011, outlines the specific steps our countries intend to take to achieve the security and economic competitiveness goals outlined in the Beyond the Border Declaration. For more information on the Action Plan on Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness, we can visit www.borderactionplan.gc.ca

The 125th W.N.P.A. Convention | Not A Rainy Day In Yakima

"The Eastern European Echo" has visited last month Yakima WA, as we have been invited to the 125th celebration of freedom of press in NW America. According to W.N.P.A., the main organization of publishers and editors in this geographical area, at this time are still in business about 130 publications, covering millions of readers from Seattle to Vancouver.

Washington Newspaper Publishers Association (WNPA) is an advocate for community newspapers, freedom of the press and open government. The association is dedicated to helping members advance editorial excellence, financial viability, professional development, and a high standard of publication quality and community leadership. WNPA represents about 130 community newspapers in Washington state. It is the successor to the Washington Press Association, founded in 1887 by newspapers in Dayton, Ellensburg, Seattle, Tacoma, Yakima and Walla Walla. Our news magazine became an associate member this August.

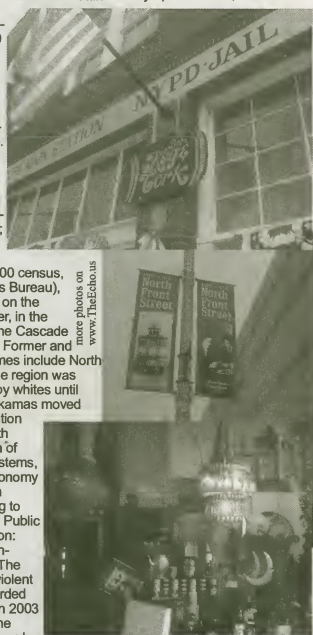
Being a little bit affected by the crisis, I went to this event just for a half day to be part of a professional workshop regarding "how to increase the media sales". How I found Yakima WA, for me the second time there? Interesting and fascinating, even though a small venue as probably most of the Eastern Washington cities... So Yakima is a city in Yakima County, East Washington state and it is the county seat. The community was named for the river, which was named for the Indian tribe. The latitude of Yakima is 46.602N. The

longitude is -120.504W and of course it is in the Pacific Standard time zone. Elevation is 1,070 feet, and an estimated population, in 2003,

of 80,223 (source: epodunk.com). Here's more data: Median household income: Local \$29,475; National \$41,994 (Source: 2000 census, U.S. Census Bureau). The town is on the Yakima River, in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. Former and merged names include North Yakima. The region was not settled by whites until after the Yakamas moved to a reservation in 1858. With construction of irrigation systems, the local economy moved from cattle-raising to agriculture. Public transportation: Yakima Transit. Crime: The number of violent crimes recorded by the FBI in 2003 was 430. The number of murders and homicides was 5. The violent crime rate was 5.8 per 1,000 people.

Well-known residents here have included: Kyle MacLachlan, actor; Robert E. Lucas Jr., winner of Nobel Prize in

economics; Phil Mahre, skier, Olympic medalist; William



[continued on page 6]

Cost of would have been \$50 per issue. - where's your? E7Y (206) 731-8955

Jade River
Healing with Center

Yarley Nystrom
Licensed Massage Therapist

9900 SW Willshire, Suite 190-E
Portland, OR 97225
503.756.5076 fax 503.297.3827
y.nystrom@jadevalley.com

Performance Has An Address Kuni BMW

Kuni BMW is a Kuni BMW Center of Excellence.

3939 SW CANTON ROAD PORTLAND OREGON 97005

WWW.KUNIBMW.COM

Center 2009 Excellence
Center 2010 Excellence
Center 2011 Excellence

The Ultimate Driving Machine

FAPTELE VORBESC

The 125th
W.N.P.A.
Convention |

**Not A Rainy
Day In
Yakima**

| from page 5

O. Douglas, Supreme Court justice. Coffee: National and regional coffee companies with outlets here include Starbucks. Local festivals include a Festival of Flowers, in June. Performing arts: Yakima Symphony Orchestra. Nearby parks & recreation: Indian Rock Paintings State Park, Yakima Sportsmans State Park, Yakima Area Arboretum. Sports teams: Bears (minor league baseball). Historic sites and museums: Yakima Valley Museum, Washington's Fruit Place Visitor Center, Yakima Electric Railway Museum; Gays & lesbians National index: 100 Local index: 68. Pronunciations: YAK-I-maw. Locals are Yakimans. The upcoming week, Mrs. Bush, ex-first lady, would have given us the chance to listen from her life and political experiences at White House as a guest speaker in town. There were big sized advertisements in local media outlets, and the cover went up to \$80 per person at Yakima City Hall. We missed this opportunity but here is a picture of Laura Bush, for our readers.

The little time I spent in the old part of town, a very quite one overall, I was just walking the streets for pictures and a coffee at a nice local trendy shop. I noticed the bikes are at demand here as in almost any city in NW America, where people want to stay in good shape and also save money on gas. The Yakimans are not very talkative and, since the immigration got tougher even here, I couldn't see much nerve or action in the streets as last time I have been in this city. About the convention, well, the print industry got some sufferings since we have entered the "internet era" and I could tell that since I got there. People didn't seemed so happy or open,



Hristescu George



ALEGE GEORGE HRISTESCU DEPUTAT

www.hristescu.us

OAMENII DIN COLEGIUL UNINOMINAL 3 CONTEAZA!

JOBS

Join our team as Advertising agent and make up to 50% the money you bring in. For details call (206) 331-8955.

We are looking for a couple to manage AFH in Vancouver WA. Need English and experience. Call (360) 904-6700.

Caut caregiver live-in pentru casa de batrani level 3. Engleza, acte necesare, zona SW Portland. Pentru persoana potrivita, salariu incepand dela \$2,200 lunar. Sunati si/sau mesaj la: (503) 577-4292. Joana.

Cautam femeie caregiver, live in, pentru casa de batrani in Kent WA. Engleza si experienta necesare. Rugam sunati la (253) 709-2725.

Caut sa angajez truck-driver cu CDL pentru curse locale in OR si WA states. Sunati la telefon (503) 810-0527.

Caut caregiver live-in, 5 zile pe saptamana, in Adult Care home in Lake Oswego OR. Sunati la (503) 957-5074.

Caut live-in caregiver in Vancouver WA. Sunati la (503) 896-7404.

Caut caregiver in Vancouver WA, live-in, engleza necesara, clasele necesare, experienta, salariu foarte bun, vacante. Tel: (503) 515-3987.

Caut Caregiver in Vancouver WA state, full-time, live-out. Telefon (360) 254-3498.

Looking for job. Caut sa lucrez in AFCH 5 zile/sapt./ variante, zona Portland OR. Am acte, experienta, Engleza. Tel: (503) 935-1122.

I want to work for you while in vacation. Vreau sa dau vacante/ libere la AFCH in OR state. Experienta, Engleza, acte complete. Sunati la (503) 505-8823.

Resident manager / administrator cu experienta, toate calificariile WA state, acte etc. caut contract in ACH, zona Seattle. Pot administra 1-2 case de batrani. Salariu minim lunar \$3,000. Numai oferte serioase, rog lasati mesaj la telefon (206) 331-8955 (la redactie).

REAL ESTATE

HOUSE FOR SALE IN LAKE OSWEGO OR by owner. Nice property located in the heart of Lake Oswego OR is for sale. Price: \$495,000, plus profitable business (seniors care facility). For details, call (503) 675-2853.

SERVICES

TOWING SERVICE in Portland - Vancouver area. Experienta 8 ani, ore de lucru: 8 AM - 6 PM. Sunati la (503) 481-2874.



The Folkloric Ensemble Transylvania is searching for new members desirous of learning, preserving and transmitting authentic popular dances from different parts of Romania as well as Romanian customs and traditions. Children are welcome, those interested please contact Daniel Craciun at 360.910.7988.

Help For Ex-Homeowners

Some of us have been in difficulties, falling behind mortgage payments and even lost their properties. But here's some good news. The nation's five largest banks will provide roughly \$25 billion in relief to resolve a multistate investigation of fraudulent and flawed foreclosure practices. Oregon is one of 49 states, including New York and California, that signed on to this agreement which penalizes banks that engaged in wrongful conduct, brings badly needed assistance to distressed homeowners and will help reverse the housing market's downward slide.

Distressed homeowners and Oregonians who have gone through the foreclosure process may be entitled to additional assistance if their mortgage servicer is a party to the multistate settlement. To receive updates as more information becomes available please sign up below. We strongly encourage consumers who have a specific problem with their mortgage servicer to file a complaint with the Attorney General's Consumer Hotline. You can get access right here: http://www.doj.state.or.us/consumer/pages/foreclosure_settlement.aspx

Now, learn about the settlement, homeowner eligibility, important contact information and more at: www.nationalforeclosuresettlement.com.

And we can tell you, this time is not a scam. The only thing is the little cash will be \$8-900 for each owner in this situation. Just send your application and wait.

Looking for a strong Fence & Deck for your property? Light construction jobs as well. Fast and affordable, just a call ahead. Free estimate. Phone: 503-913-0883. Portland - Vancouver area only.

FRIENDSHIPS

Doamna din Romania, gospodina, serioasa, fara obligatii, varsta 60, cauta domn serios din America pt casatorie. Tel: 0114030772204.

Caut pt prietenie tanara educata, care crede in Sf. Treime, nu alearga dupa \$. Alte detalii, suna la (206) 331-8955.

The W.N.P.A. Convention...

[from page 6]

I would say maybe most of them too much preoccupied with their businesses and appearance at the closing gala.



Because let's face it: the revenues are going down and more and more newsrooms are shutting down even faster than unprofitable pubs or deli stores... And, like one of the participants next to me said, "the newspapers are dying" - that's unfortunately becoming true. Just couple of days ago, "Newsweek" has announced suppression of its

printed version: the magazine will go all digital in 2013, so get the December 31st last edition on old fashioned style support, the beautiful plain paper. Why? Perhaps because they've got too many staff and also they couldn't establish a balance between print and online revenues, as the online version should have been supporting to the one on paper. I would like to say that nothing can be better than the smell of ink on a fresh newspaper when sipping a coffee. On not a rainy day. To resume, we would like to say thanks again for being invited at this fine and unique event open not for any professional journalist but for elite. A moment to remember, see you next year.

Dan Leontescu

The Echo
eastern european

in print | on-line

Дела те
реки
с не
Adversus

Vitali "Dr. Iron fist" Klitschko,
boxing world champion

a champion for champions
of businesses!

phone: (206) 331-8955

Back to Soviet Era

| from page 4

gators say they have charged an opposition activist with plotting riots based on evidence from a television documentary.

Russia's Investigations Committee formally brought charges against Leonid Razvozhayev, a senior leader of

the Just Russia party, who was arrested on Sunday in Kyiv, Ukraine. Prosecutors say Razvozhayev turned himself

in and admitted to involvement in organizing mass disturbances in Russia.

But his supporters say he was kidnapped while in Ukraine, smuggled back into Russia and tortured into confessing. Russia's investigative Committee rejects the claims.

The Kyiv office of the U.N. refugee agency confirmed Monday that Razvozhayev disappeared after registering with the agency. Razvozhayev was featured in a pro-Kremlin documentary in which he and other activists appeared to plan mass riots and a coup in an effort funded by a Georgian politician. Razvozhayev faces up to 10 years if convicted, along with opposition activist Sergei Udaltsov and his aide, Konstantin Lebedev. Authorities launched acrimonial probe against the two last week on charges they organized riots in May in Moscow. Udaltsov was released and ordered to stay in Moscow, but Lebedev is in police custody.

Now, Russia's opposition has held online election for a 45-member leadership that will be tasked with organizing mass street protests against President Vladimir Putin into a more structured movement. Organizers say nearly 82,000 people participated in the balloting that ended Monday. Opposition leader Alexei Navalny won more than half of the votes. The poll comes amid increased government pressure on the opposition.

A senior leader of the Just Russia party, Leonid Razvozhayev, was arrested Sunday. Government officials say he turned himself in, and that he admitted involvement in organizing mass disturbances in Russia. Razvozhayev's supporters say he was kidnapped from Ukraine, and that his confession was extracted by torture. The office of the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) in Kyiv confirmed that Razvozhayev disappeared after registering with the agency on October 19.

Last week, authorities launched a probe against Left Front party leader Sergei Udaltsov and party member Konstantin Lebedev on charges that they organized mass riots in May in Moscow. Elsewhere, a lawyer for the two convicted members of the anti-Kremlin all-female punk band Pussy Riot said they have been sent to prison camps far from Moscow.

Attorney Mark Feygin said Maria Alekhina was transferred to the Perm region in the Ural mountains and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova to the central province of Mordovia. The two, along with a third band member, Yekaterina Samutsevich, were convicted in August of hooliganism motivated by religious hatred for an unsanctioned protest at a Moscow cathedral.

(VOA News)

Advertise NW America

Coastal Region

2x2 or 1x4 - \$400
2x4 or 1x8 - \$600

Covers all of Western Washington outside the Metro Region.

32 newspapers,

5 total market coverage publications
284,720 circulation and 654,856 readers.*

Anacortes American
Argus, Burlington
Bainbridge Island Reporter
Bainbridge Islander
Bremerton Patriot
Camas-Washougal Post-Record
Central Kitsap Reporter, Silverdale
Chinook Observer, Long Beach
Counier-Times, Sedro-Woolley
East County Journal, Morton
Forks Forum
Islands' Sounder, Eastsound
Journal of the San Juan Islands,
Friday Harbor
La Coterie Weekly News
Lynden Tribune
Nesqueam Valley News, Yelm
North Coast News, Ocean Shores
North Kitsap Herald, Poulsbo
Northern Light, Blaine
Peninsula Gateway, Gig Harbor
Port Orchard Independent
Port Townsend Leader
Record-Journal, Ferndale
Sequim Gazette
Shelton-Mason County Journal
South Beach Bulletin, Westport
South Whidbey Record, Langley
Starwood-Camano News
Ticino Independent
Vedette, Montesano
Walkikurk County Eagle, Cathlamet
Whidbey Examiner, Coupeville
Whidbey News-Times, Oak Harbor

Metro Region

2x2 or 1x4 - \$800
2x4 or 1x8 - \$1,600

Covers I-5 corridor through most of King, Snohomish and Pierce counties.

38 newspapers,

5 total market coverage publications
661,830 circulation and 1,522,229 readers.*

Arlington Times
Auburn Reporter
Bainbridge Reporter
Borrey Lake-Summer Courier-Herald
Bothell/Kennmore Reporter
Capitol Hill Times, Seattle
Covington/Maple Valley Reporter
Daily Journal of Commerce, Seattle
Dispatch, Eatonville
Edmonds Beacon
Enumclaw County Herald
Friday Valley Mirror
Herald, Puyallup
Issaquah Press
Issaquah/Sammamish Reporter
Kent Reporter
Kirkland Reporter
Lake Stevens Journal
Marysville Globe
Mercer Island Reporter
Monroe Monitor and Valley News
Mukilteo Beacon
North Seattle Herald - Outlook, Seattle
Northwest Asian Weekly, Seattle
Queen Anne/Magnolia News
Redmond Reporter
Renton Reporter
River County News, Duvall
Sammamish Review
Snohomish County Tribune
Snoqualmie Valley Record
South Seattle Beacon
Western-Maury Island Beachcomber
Voice of the Valley, Maple Valley
Woodinville Weekly

+ now
The Echo
Eastern European

Eastern Region

2x2 or 1x4 - \$350
2x4 or 1x8 - \$700

Covers all of Eastern Washington.

38 newspapers,

14 total market coverage publications
234,187 circulation and 538,630 readers.*

Cashmere Valley Record
Cheney Free Press
Daily Record, Ellensburg
Daily Sun News, Sunnyside
Davenport Times
Douglas County Empire Press, East
Wenatchee
East Washingtonian, Pomeroy
Enterprise, White Salmon
Goldendale Sentinel
Grandview Herald
Grant County Journal, Ephrata
Independent, Chewelah
Lake Chelan Mirror, Chelan
Leavenworth Echo
Liberty Lake Splash
Mattawa Area News
Methow Valley News, Twisp
Newport Mirror
Northern Kittitas County Tribune, Cle Elum
Odesa Record
Okanogan Valley Gazette-Tribune, Oroville
Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle
Othello Independent
Othello Outlook
Prosser Record-Bulletin
Quad City Herald, Brewster
Quincy Valley Post-Register
Republic News-Miner
Review Independent, Toppenish
Ritzville Adams County Journal
Selah Independent
Shamaine County Pioneer, Stevenson
South County Sun, Royal City
Spokane Valley News Herald
Star, Grand Coulee
Statesman-Examiner, Colville
Whitman County Gazette, Colfax
Wilbur Register

* Based on statewide readership surveys showing 2.3 people read each copy of community newspapers.

You Pay One Low Bill!

Call (206) 331-8955 and your business can "hit" 2.7 million readers in Washington state. If you want to be seen in Oregon state as well, we can do that for you too, just ask. Now, thanks to W.N.P.A. and its Oregon fraternal association

Statewide

Discounts

2X2 or 1x4 - \$250

2X4 or 1x8 - \$2,495

106 Newspapers

27 total market coverage publications

1,180,746 Circulation

2,715,700 Readers*

W.N.P.A.
Washington Newspaper Publishers Association

Let People Now